GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:317
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
AMENDMENT IN SUPPORT PRICE SYSTEM
PADAMSEN CHAUDHARY

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to amend the present support price system in order to make available foodgrains to the poor at cheaper rates and promote the production of other crops in addition to wheat and rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (c): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.317 DUE FOR REPLY ON 15TH APRIL, 2002.

(a) to (c): The Government have already undertaken steps and refocused the price policy under the Minimum Support Price scheme and accorded relatively higher increases to oilseeds, pulses and coarse cereals so as to encourage their cultivation and growth. This can be seen from the statement at Annexure-I. Special emphasis is also being laid on research for these crops, so as to achieve increased productivity which will bring down per unit cost.

ANNEXURE-I

MINIMUM SUPPORT PRICES (According to Crop Year)

(Rs. per quintal)

S.No.	Comodity	Variety	2000-01	2001-02 (#)	increase in 2001-02 over 2000-01
1.	Paddy	Common	510	530	20(3.9)
		Grade `A`	540	560	20(3.7)
2.	Coarse Cereals (Jowar, Bajra, Ragi & Maize)		445	485	40(9.0)
3.	Wheat		610	620	10(1.6)
4.	Barley		500	500	-
5.	Gram		1100	1200	100(9.1)
6.	Arhar		1200	1320	120(10.0)
7	Moong		1200	1320	120(10.0)
8.	Urad		1200	1320	120(10.0)

9. Masur(lentil) 1200 1300 100(8.3)
10. Sugarcane@ 59.50 62.05 2.55(4.3)
11. Cotton F-414/H-777/ J34 1625 1675 50(3.1)
H-4 1825 1875 50(2.7)
12. Groundnut-in-shell 1220 1340 120(9.8)
13. Jute 785 810 25(3.2)
14. Rapeseed/Mustard 1200 1300 100(8.3)
15. Sunflower Seed 1170 1185 15(1.3)
16. Soybean Black 775 795 20(2.6)
Yellow 865 885 20(2.3)
17. Safflower 1200 1300 100(8.3)
18. Tobacco(VFC)
(Rs. per kg.)
Black Soil (F2 Gr) 26.00 27.00 1(3.8)
Light Soil (L2 Gr) 28.00 29.00 1(3.6)
19. Copra (Calender Year)
Milling 3250 3300 50(1.5)
Ball 3500 3550 50(1.4)
20. Sesamum 1300 1400 100(7.7)
21. Nigerseed 1025 1100 75(7.3)

@ Statutory Minimum Price linked to a basic recovery of 8.5 per cent with proportionate premium for every 0.1 per cent increase in recovery above that level.

Figures in brackets indicate percentage increase.